ANNIVERSARY Sale!

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GARDENIA'S OR
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IN 5" PLASTIC POTS
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Beautiful GARDEN FRESH FLOWERS!

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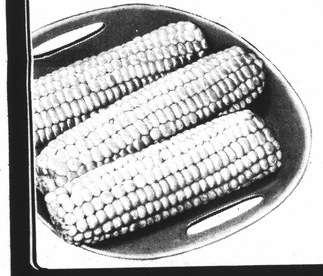

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CORN
5 EARS **69¢**

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

1 SECTION - 16 PAGES

VOLUME 87 - NUMBER 19 | APPOMATTOX, (VA.) - TIMES-VIRGINIAN, MAY 11, 1978 | SINGLE COPY PRICE 15c

Father Darkleaf

BY CALVIN ROBINSON

April showers bring May flowers. May showers bring pot holes in streets and roads, and wet basements.

* * *

And impatient gardeners. I set out two rows of onions, and they are up and growing. Same for a row of radishes. No sign yet of watermelons up, nor sunflowers and such but they will be on schedule. But the two-thirds of my garden not yet planted will have to wait for the Sun and wind to dry the soil. My few tomato plants are still in pots on the back porch. One of the lawnmowers you heard Saturday was mine.

Fishermen are active, too. A friend was telling me Sunday about his boat and visits to Buggs Island Lake. The lake is full of water and/or fish. Have no report on local farm ponds but there are lots of them in Appomattox County.

* * *

All of us realize that our public schools have experienced great growth in recent years, especially in physical plants and compensation of personnel. I came across a copy of the annual report of the state superintendent of public instruction for the year 1940-41, and it had 288 pages of vital information. For that school year, the total receipts and balances from all sources for Appomattox schools amounted to $115,566.02. Will be many times that this year. Total disbursement for instruction was $62,428.74 operation of school plant $4,295.47. There were a total of 69 teachers. High school teachers averaged $923, elementary teachers $692. Per capita cost of education $49.23. Total enrollment, 2,247. There were 22 school buses, all privately owned. Total value of school property, $234,400.

Appomattox has always had an interest in railroads. To railroad buffs, it might be interesting to note that the "golden spike" was driven to complete the first transcontinental railroad May 10, 1869. So this week is an anniversary. Central Pacific Engine No. 60 met Union Pacific Engine No. 119, at Promontory Point, Utah. A great ceremony was held, as a great dream became a reality. I presume that "golden spike" is in a museum some place.

* * *

I suppose that about as far South as I have been is the tip of Florida. Centuries ago warring Indian tribes left so many bones scattered around early Spanish explorers called the place Cayo Ruseso, which meant Bone Key. Later the English settlers changed it to Key West. It is worth the trip to visit Key West, Florida. The natives are called Conchs. I have a collection of sea shells I brought home from Key West. Might add that Florida specializes in entertaining visitors. Disney World is the big attraction now. But there is so much to see in all parts of The Sunshine State. Especially in some of the small towns and less commercial areas. Most tomatoes I ever saw were around Marathon, Florida.

* * *

Thanks some more. Brightleaf and I were shopping in a food store one day last week and a fine lady came up and told Brightleaf, "You used to teach me at school." And she told me that she was a faithful reader of this column. Ah yes, such thoughtfulness can "make a day."

* * *

When you have guests and they are not familiar with our growing town, why not drive them around and "show off" our community. We have fine homes, businesses and civic services and I always like a person who is proud of where they live. I've always been proud to say . . . "I live in Historic Appomattox." Thanks for reading; seeya next week.

Public Invited To Attend Town Meeting

The general public is invited to attend an old-fashioned town meeting to learn about local government.

The meeting entitled "Local Government - Who?" is scheduled for the citizens of Appomattox County and Town on May 18 at 8 p.m. at Appomattox High School.

The town meeting is for the purpose of discussing the functions, powers and limitations of local government. The Appomattox County Board of Supervisors and Appomattox Town Council are sponsoring the session to encourage better communication between the people and their elected officials.

The meeting will begin with a panel discussion of the actual operation of local government. Panel members include Senator Howard P. Anderson; William R. Britton, Appomattox town manager; Mayor Henry Pack of Appomatox; Dr. Tom Gilpatrick, government professor at Sweet Briar College and James A. Lampman, political science professor at Central Virginia Community College. R. B. Carter, director of vocational education, will serve as panel moderator.

The panel discussion will include an explanation of how local government was created and for what purposes, an explanation of how it actually operates and an explanation of specific state or federal laws which limit local governments' powers.

After the panel discussion, audience participation will be encouraged so that citizens may have the opportunity to ask specific questions and discuss community concerns. Other board and council members will join the panel members to conduct general audience discussion.

The town meeting is made possible by funding from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, a private grant-making organization affiliated with the national Endowment for the Humanities. The meeting is organized by the Central Virginia Planning District Commission.

Similar town meetings are being conducted in Campbell County/Altavista/Brookneal at the Campbell County meeting room on May 10 at 8 p.m. and in Bedford County/City on May 16 at 8 p.m. at Liberty High School.

19 SIGNED UP FOR CLERK-CARRIER EXAM FOR PAMPLIN POST OFFICE

During the Clerk-Carrier examination announcement that was posted April 24 through April 28, nineteen signed up to take the Clerk-Carrier exam for the Pamplin Post Office, Postmaster L. E. Richardson.

"We have not replenished our job register since 1973 and this undoubtedly helped contribute to the number of applicants who applied to take the test that could lead to Postal Service employment," he said.

"But I think the good reponse we got also indicates local residents consider Postal Service jobs attractive," he continued. "I think our pay, fringer benefits, economic security and ability to advance on merit are major reasons for the large number of applicants."

Mr. Richardson emphasized massive Postal job openings could not be expected in the Pamplin area in the coming months, but estimated one or two vacancies will likely occur in the next two years. Those vacancies will be filled by offering jobs to those who do well on the exams and are placed on the up-dated register.

Two Juveniles Arrested

J. E. Richardson, Sheriff of Appomattox County, has made an arrest in a rash of break-ins that have occured in the Town of Appomattox for the past two or three weeks.

To juveniles were arrested in the break-ins.

WOW TO MEET MONDAY NIGHT

The regular meeting of Camp 71, Woodmen of the World will be held Monday, May 15, at the WOW building at 7:30 p.m.

There will be no invitation at this meeting.

All members are urged to attend.

Holiday Lake Opening Announced

All facilities at Holiday Lake will open to the public on May 13 and 14 and again on May 20 and 21, weather permitting.

Holiday Lake will open for the season on May 27, 1978.

Health Department Sets May 24th For Admission To School Physicals

The physical examination necessary for admission to school will be given on May 24, 1978 at the health department.

The hours for these examinations will be 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The physicians will be Dr. A. A. Fratrick, Dr. K. A. Powell, and Dr. J. A. Mathews.

Please call the health department for an appointment or further information, 352-5690.

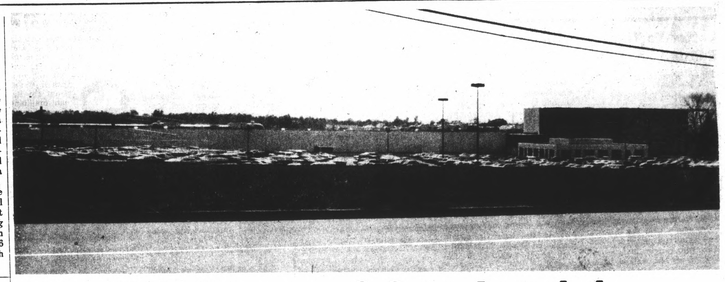
METRICS WEEK: May 8-12

Appomattox Primary students are celebrating Metrics Week with a daily classroom activity, a daily school-sponsored activity, and an upcoming PTA meeting on May 18, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. which will involve a presentation on metrics.

Metrics is Fun . . . Metrics is Easy . . . especially when you have the Muppets to teach you. The Muppets will share metrics with the boys and girls at the PTA meeting.

Is your child coming to kindergarten in the fall of 1978? Why not bring your kindergartner to our next PTA meeting and allow your child to become acquainted with our school as well as enjoy those irresistable Muppets?!

Pictured above is Steven Delp, Jamie Mapp, and Brenda Glover participating in metric activities. Kits, books, and tapes are available for instruction in measuring with metrics.



J. E. Jamerson & Sons Awarded Contract For Armstrong Addition

William Lowe, vice president and manager at the Appomattox based Armstrong Furniture Division of Thomasville Furniture Industries, has announced that J. E. Jamerson & Sons of Appomattox have been awarded a contract for the construction of a 140,000 square foot addition to the existing building. 100,000 square feet will be used for warehouse space and 40,000 square feet of the addition will be for manufacturing space. With the completion of the manufacturing addition, more people will be needed for production workers.

Bids are out at this time for an addition of 4,000 square feet that will be added to the present office building.

In addition to this expansion, already under construction is a building that will be used in their unique storage facility and will contain space for two additional Triax storage units. They now have two units, one new one will be completed and space for the fourth unit will be available when needed.

Upon completion of the construction by J. E. Jamerson & Sons, approximately 750,000 square feet of space will be under roof at the Armstrong plant here in Appomattox.

Band Concert Scheduled Sunday

The Appomattox County School Music Department will present a band concert on Sunday, May 14, 1978.

The concert will be presented at 4 p.m. in the Appomattox County High School auditorium. The Beginning Concert and the A.C.H.S. Concert Bands will share the program.

The Beginning Concert Band is composed of students in grades 6, 7 and 8 who first began studying a band instrument in September. The A.C.H.S. Concert Band is composed of students in grades 7-12 who have had more band playing experience. Sunday's program will feature a wide spectrum of musical styles. A highlight of the program will be the presentation of a special arrangement of music from the movie, "Star Wars."

The band concert is presented as a part of the Festival of the Arts program.

Student works of art will be on exhibit from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Tickets for the concert are available from any band member. Everyone is urged to support their band with their attendance.

Area Farmers To Be Asked About 1978 Acreages And Livestock

A nationwide survey to identify 1978 crop acreages and livestock numbers will include contacts with Appomattox County farmers, the Virginia Crop and Livestock Reporting Service announced today.

Mrs. Vanessa R. Venable, representing the Service, said that she will be contacting local producers in late May or early June for information about acreages actually planted or planned for 1978 and the number of livestock and poultry on hand. All the information will be kept confidential and used only in developing official State and national estimates.

Mrs. Venable said that estimating this year's acreages and livestock is even more important than usual because of the influences of changing farm policies, the fluctuations of crop and livestock prices over the past several months, and the possible impact of some producer unrest. These reasons make farmer cooperation all the more necessary to the development of reliable and current estimates.

The report on spring planted acres will be published June 30, followed July 11 with estimates of yield and production. Hog and pig numbers will be reported June 22 and cattle numbers on July 26. All estimates are available to the public and can play a major part in helping producers and others in agriculture make marketing and related decisions.

USDA Soil Conservation Service News

By Robert E. McClenny, Jr.
District Conservationist

According to the "USDA" newsletter, only 5 acres lie between you and starvation. "Our country is blessed with a good agricultural climate, ample resources from one end of the nation to the other, and a large acreage of good farmland. But, these assets are finite - they are not growing. Population is."

Fifty years ago, there was an average of more than 10 acres of farmland in the United States. Thirty years ago it had declined to 8 acres. Today, there is an average of 5 acres to produce our food, clothing and lumber.

Of "your 5 acres" 2.12 acres are in pastureland, 0.53 acres in woodland and 2.2 acres of cropland. Nearly ½ acre of this cropland produces crops for export.

"Prime farmland" is land suited for production of food, feed, forage, and fiber. The land could be cropland, pastureland or woodland. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops economically.

These prime lands can be farmed continuously or nearly continously without degrading the environment and they will produce the most with the least amount of energy and least cost.

In 1975, the U. S. had 384 million acres of prime farmland according to a study conducted

Continued on Page 15

Lions Club To Meet Tonight

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet tonight, Thursday, at 6:45 p.m. at the John Mosby Inn Restaurant.

Ernie Chenault and David Caldwell, members of the Appomattox Teen Leader 4-H Club will present a slide presentation on opportunities in 4-H. J. A. Smith, Extension Agent, is in charge of the program.

All members will want to attend this meeting.

County Teachers Seek Binding Arbitration In Grievance Procedure

A specially-called executive committee meeting of the Appomattox County Education Association unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the Appomattox County School Board to adopt a grievance procedure with binding arbitration as part of its personnel policies.

The ACEA, representing 108 teachers in Appomattox County, called the special executive committee meeting May 2, 1978 to plan actions to alleviate the effects on teachers of the April 21 Virginia Supreme Court ruling which declared unconstitutional the binding arbitration feature of the State Board of Education's grievance procedure.

"The Supreme Court decision left teachers with no means of resolving our differences with the school board on questions relating to the application of policies," said Peggy Deyerle, president of the ACEA.

"The state grievance procedure is now meaningless, so we are simply asking our board to adopt the identical procedure as part of our personnel policies and teachers contracts," she added.

Ms. Deyerle said the court's decision would not affect a local school board's prerogative to adopt binding arbitration in a grievance procedure, according to attorneys for the Virginia Education Association (VEA), which supported the teacher in the Supreme Court case. The justices only ruled the State Board of Education cannot force a school board to use binding arbitration in its grievance procedure, she said.

"The court decision was destructive of teacher morale statewide," Peggy Deyerle continued. "All other state employees have a grievance procedure which includes arbitration, binding or advisory. The General Assembly just approved it and Governor John Dalton recently signed it. Why are teachers being singled out for potential mistreatment? Why should we be treated any differently?"

"When all other states are moving forward and dealing in a progressive manner with their educators to assure them fair play, Virginia is moving backwards and dealing unfairly and repressively with teachers," she added.

Board To Meet For Equalizing Of Real Estate Assessments

Real Estate owners in Appomattox County will be interested to know that the Board of Equalization will meet in its office on the second floor above the Commissioner of the Revenue Office at the Court House for the purpose of equalizing real estate assessment.

Any person aggrieved by the reassessment who believes his assessed value is not uniform with his neighbors or exceeds the fair market value may appear before this board.

Any owner or agent wishing to appear should call 352-7450 to arrange a time and date suitable to him and this board.

Hearings will start on May 22, 1978 and continue until May 25, 1978. The hearings will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22-24, and end for the day at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 25th, the hours will be from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Re-appointed to the Board of Equalization by Judge Jack Snoddy, the members are W. O. Slagle, W. E. Bondurant, Jr., and W. Twyman Coleman.

EASTERN STAR SETS MEETING

The regular meeting of the Order of the Eastern Star will be held Monday, May 15, 1978, at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapter Room.

Initiation for new members will be held at this time.

All members are urged to attend.

Virginia T. Ferguson,
Secretary

Dog Ordinance In Effect May 15

The Board of Supervisors of Appomattox County passed an ordinance last year calling for the confinement of all dogs in the county to the lots of the owners or keepers for a period of thirty days.

The Dog Ordinance will be in effect May 15, 1978 through June 15, 1978.

All dogs found going "at large" within the county during this period of time shall be impounded.

Owners and keepers of any dogs within the county who fail to confine such dogs will be subject to a fine for each offense.

The foregoing required shall not apply whenever a dog is in the custody of its owner or keeper.

Blood Pressure Clinic Planned For May 20

A Blood Pressure Clinic has been planned for Saturday, May 20th, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., according to Mrs. Delores Hopkins, Chairman of the Appomattox Chapter, American Heart Association.

The clinic will be held at American Federal Savings & Loan Association and is free to all citizens who want to stop by for a blood pressure check.

To Show That America Remembers Wear A Poppy

Every year on the weekend before Memorial Day, the little "red poppy" is offered to the people of America by the American Legion Auxiliary for whatever donation the individual wishes to make.

This little poppy is made by our blind veterans in Veterans Hospitals from materials furnished them by the Auxiliary and the money donated is used to aid veterans and their families.

The "Poppy" will be offered to the citizens of Appomattox on May 19th and May 20th. These poppies will come from the Veterans Hospital in Kecoughtan.

"Take a poppy, give what you can and wear it to show that those men and women who have paid so dearly to protect our way of life are not forgotten."